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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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KENNETH R. FARRIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRIAN E. WILLIAMS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:16-cv-00761-MMD-VPC

ORDER

This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a former state prisoner. On November 14, 2017, this Court issued an order directing Plaintiff to file his updated address with this Court within thirty (30) days.<sup>1</sup> (ECF No. 8 at 2.) The thirty-day period has now expired, and Plaintiff has not filed his updated address or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856

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<sup>1</sup>This order was returned as undeliverable. (ECF No. 9.)

1 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring  
2 *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833  
3 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson*  
4 *v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and  
5 failure to comply with local rules).

6 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey  
7 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:  
8 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to  
9 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring  
10 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.  
11 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;  
12 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

13 In the instant case, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in  
14 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket,  
15 weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs  
16 in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of  
17 unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See  
18 *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy  
19 favoring disposition of cases on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor  
20 of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey  
21 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"  
22 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d  
23 at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to file his updated address with the Court  
24 within thirty (30) days expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Plaintiff fails  
25 to timely comply with this order, the Court shall dismiss this case without prejudice." (ECF  
26 No. 8 at 2.) Local Rule IA 3-1 similarly cautions a party to notify the court of any change  
27 of mailing address to avoid dismissal. Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal


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1 would result from his noncompliance with the Court's order to file his updated address  
2 within thirty (30) days.

3 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on  
4 Plaintiff's failure to file an updated address in compliance with this Court's November 14,  
5 2017, order.

6 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court enter judgment accordingly.

7 DATED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2017.

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10 MIRANDA M. DU  
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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